Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: B-4564

Name: Edison Hwy over Amtrak

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended __X___

Criteria: ___A ___B _X_C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G __None

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Reviewer, OPS: _Anne E. Bruder_____ Date: __3 April 2001____

Reviewer, NR Program: __Peter E. Kurtze_____ Date: __3 April 2001____

Maryland Inventory of Historic Propertie MHT Number B-4564
Historic Bridge Inventory
Maryland State Highway Administration
Maryland Historical Trust

Name and SHA No. BC 4208

Location:
Street/Road Name and Number: Edison Highway over AMTRAK

City/Town: Baltimore Vicinity __

County: _____

Ownership: __State__County X Municipal__Other

This bridge projects over: __Road X Railway__Water__Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district:__yes X no

__NR listed district__NR determined eligible district
__locally designated__other
Name of District_____

Bridge Type:

__Timber Bridge
__Beam Bridge__Truss-Covered__Trestle
__Timber-and-Concrete

__Stone Arch

__Metal Truss

__Movable Bridge
__Swing __Bascule Single Leaf__Bascule Multiple Leaf
__Vertical Lift__Retractile__Pontoon

X Metal Girder
X Rolled Girder __Rolled Girder Concrete Encased
__Plate Girder X Plate Girder Concrete Encased

__Metal Suspension

__Metal Arch

__Metal Cantilever

__Concrete
__Concrete Arch __Concrete Slab__Concrete Beam
__Rigid Frame
__Other Type Name_____

Description:

Describe Setting:

Bridge Number BC4208 carries Edison Avenue in a generally north-south direction over Amtrak tracks in the City of Baltimore, Maryland. The approach to the roadway is rising and has four lanes. The area around this bridge is urban and residential. The structures in the vicinity of this bridge are generally from the twentieth century.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge Number BC4208 is a ten span structure, measuring 480 feet in total length. Bridge Number BC4208 is a rolled I-beam deck bridge with a center span of concrete encased rolled girder. The roadway width from curb to curb is 44 feet and the total deck width is 57 feet. There are sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and the width of each is five feet.

The superstructure is composed of a steel rolled I-beam and a concrete encased rolled girder system. There is one span in the main bridge unit and nine in the approach units. The longest span is 108 feet long. The other spans are 40 feet long. There are no stringers in the structure. The floor system is composed of concrete cast-in-place. The joints are made of a compression seals. There are two rectangular concrete parapets. There is little ornamentation. There are no historical plaques.The substructure is composed of concrete cantilever abutments and wing walls. The piers and columns are also concrete. There is no ornamentation. There are no historical plaques. The condition of this bridge is currently rated fair with some segment loss, deterioration and spalling.

Discuss Major Alterations:

There has been one major alteration to this structure. These occurred in 1980 and involved the reconstruction of this bridge. All the elements of this bridge are new in 1980.

History:
When Built:1931 reconstructed 1980
Why Built: Increased traffic density necessitated a structure with an increased load capacity.
Who Built: State Roads Commission
Why Altered: Safety and structure
Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:

Surveyor Analysis:

This bridge may have NR significance for association with:

__A Events __Person

__C Engineering/Architectural

Was this bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history:

Yes. Increasing growth of vehicular traffic rates paralleled the growth of state-owned and state-aided highways. The 1930's brought a dramatic increase in the number of tractor-trailers and other heavy vehicles. The Maryland State Roads Commission began to emphasize standardized designs. Old, one way bridges and other inadequate designs were often replaced by steel girder design bridges.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?

No. Bridge BC4208 had a significant impact on the area. The ability to access the markets and employment potential of Baltimore City would have been seriously limited to locals had this bridge not been built. The steady outward growth of Baltimore City necessitated the steady growth of a sufficient transportation network. The construction of bridge BC4208 would have been a significant part of this development. The neighborhoods of Edison Avenue would have all been directly impacted.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from historic and visual character of the possible district?

No. Bridge BC4208 is located in an area with little or no historic significance. This area has had a wide variety of unconnected developments. There is little in this area that could considered in the future for eligibility. The loss of this bridge would not detract from the historic or visual character of this area.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

No. Bridge BC4208 is a common type of metal girder bridge. Metal girder bridges were built prolifically in Maryland from the late nineteenth century to the present day. There is nothing to set this bridge apart from others of its type. There are numerous other examples of this bridge available.

Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?

No.

Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and Why?

No. This bridge does not retain sufficient elements of historical structural integrity to qualify for further study.

B-4564

Bibliography:

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1917-24 Annual Report of the Highways Engineer. Baltimore, Maryland.

Hopkins, G.M.
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Spero, P.A.C. & Company, and Louis Berger & Associates
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State Highway Administration
1993 Bridge Inventory. Baltimore, Maryland.

U.S. Department of the Interior
1990 National Register Bulletin Number 15. National Park Service. Washington D.C.

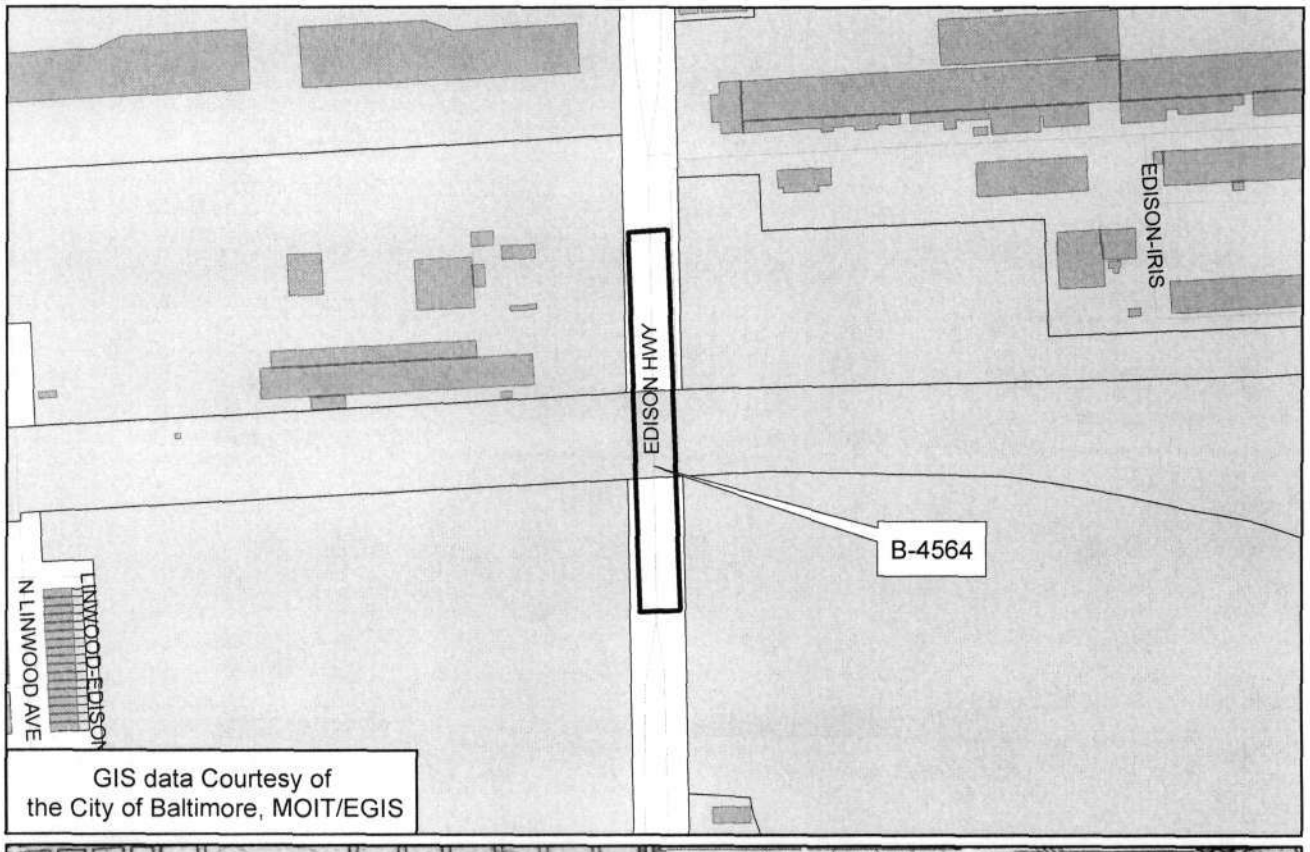
U.S. Department of Transportation
1991 Bridge Inspectors Manual. Federal Highway Administration. Washington D.C.

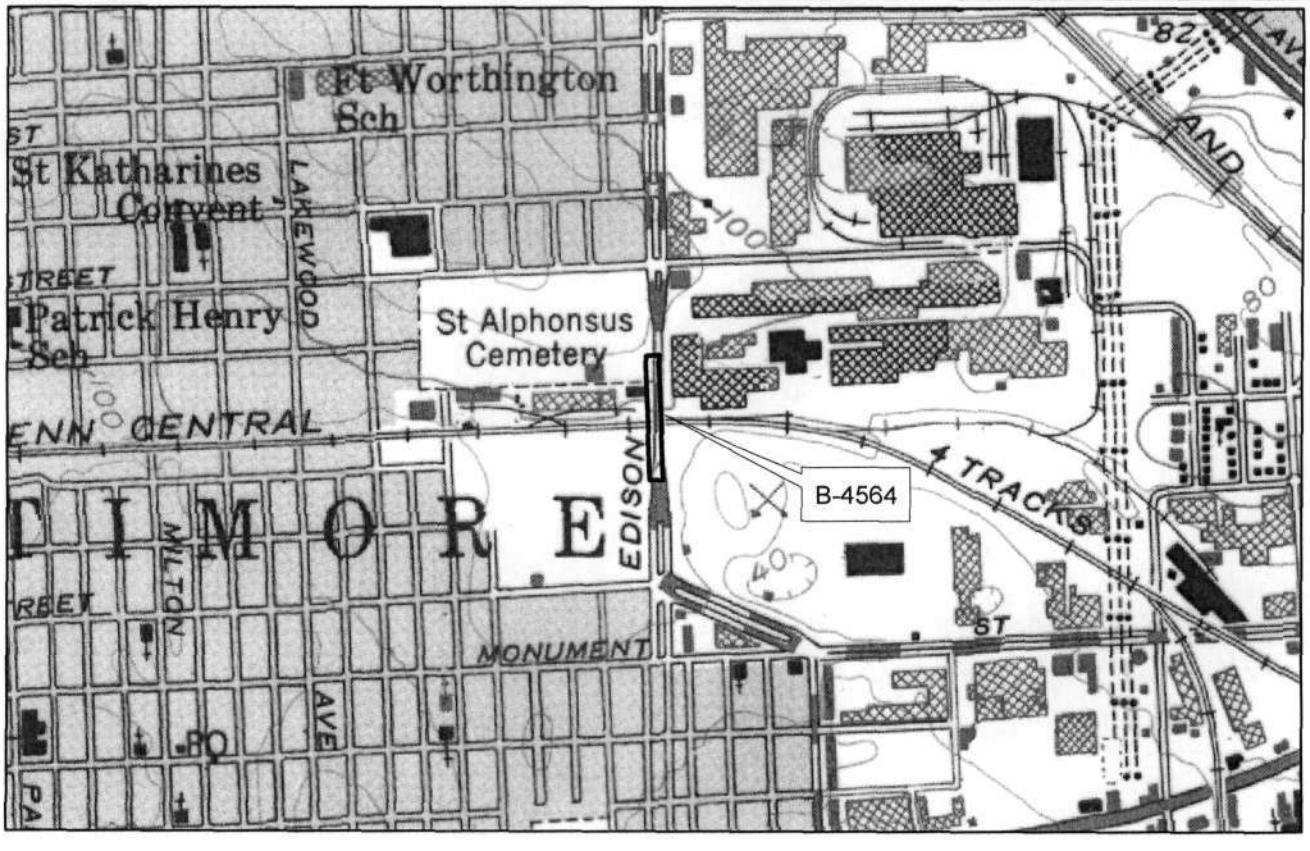
Surveyor:

Name: Andrew M. Watts **Date:** March 1996
Organization: State Highway Administration **Telephone:** (410) 321-2213
Address: 2323 West Joppa Road, Brooklandville, MD 21022


Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
Bridge Type Metal Girder B-4564
Map D-13 Dundalk
County Baltimore City
Bridge # and name BC 4208/Edison Highway over AMTRAK
BALTIMORE CEMETERY
MONUMENT
ORANGEVILLE
JOHNS HOPKINS BAYVIEW MED. CAMPUS
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MEDICAL CENTER
HIGHLANDTOWN
CANTON
O'DONNELL HEIGHTS
COLGATE
TOLL PLAZA

B-4564
Bridge 4208
Edison Highway over AMTRAK
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad





Inventory # B-4564

Name 4208-EDISON HWY OVER AMTRAK

County/State BALTIMORE CITY / MD

Name of Photographer TIM SCHUEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description NORTH APPROACH

Number 1 20 of ~~36~~ 4

Inventory # B-4564

Name 4208 - EDISON HWY OVER AMTRAK

County/State BALTIMORE CITY / MD

Name of Photographer TIM SCHUEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description WEST ELEVATION

Number ~~21~~ 2 of ~~36~~ 4

Inventory # B-4564

Name 4208-EDISON HWY OVER AMTRAK
County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MD
Name of Photographer TIM SCHOEN
Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SOUTH APPROACH

Number 3 ~~22~~ of ~~36~~ 4

Inventory # B-4564

Name 4208 - EDISON HWY OVER AMTRAK
County/State BALTIMORE CITY / MD
Name of Photographer TIM SCHOEN
Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description EAST ELEVATION

Number ~~23~~ 4 of ~~36~~ 4